

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 9950

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE AND THE PLO

REF: A) BRUSSELS 9827 B) BRUSSELS 9279

1. WE CONVEYED INFORMATION CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS OF US AND ISRAELI CONTACTS WITH PLO PER REF A IN CONVERSATION DECEMBER 16 WITH PATERNOTTE DE LA VAILLEE, BELGIAN FONMIN OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. (WE ALSO INFORMED RONSE AND VERCAUTEREN, DIRECTORS FOR WESTERN AND MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS, RESPECTIVELY.)

PETERNOTTE DE LA VAILLEE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION BUT OBSERVED THAT NO SUCH ALLEGATIONS HAD BEEN MADE IN EC-9 MEETINGS HE HAD ATTENDED ON DIALOGUE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN CLOSING WIDE DIVISION

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AMONG EC-9 ON ISSUES OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN DIALOGUE

AND THAT SEARCH WAS STILL ON FOR ACCEPTABLE FORMULA.

2. ASKED ABOUT BELGIAN POSITION ON PLO PARTICIPATION, PATERNOTTE DE LA VAILLEE LAMENTED THAT PROPOSAL TO GET DIALOGUE STARTED AT LEVEL BELOW GENERAL COMMITTEE (REF B). HAD NOT WORKED. HE SAID BELGIANS WERE STILL TAKING PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO ISSUE IN BELIEF THAT A PLO MADE MORE MODERATE BY ITS EFFORTS TO BE ACCEPTED IN INTERNATIONAL COUNCILS WOULD BE IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST. SPECIFICALLY, BELGIANS ACCEPT IDEA OF PLO PARTICIPATION, BUT NOT AS SEPARATE, FULL-FLEDGED DELEGATION. THEY WOULD PREFER INCLUSION OF PLO OBSERVERS (WITH RIGHT TO SPEAK) IN ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION. MODERATE ARABS WOULD ACCEPT THIS APPROACH, BUT SITUATION HAS DEVELOPED TO POINT THAT HARD-LINERS SUCH AS ALGERIA WILL NO LONGER DO SO. (WE UNDERSTAND FROM SEPARATE AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE THAT ALGERIAN EMBASSY HERE HAS TOLD BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, "NO PLO, NO DIALOGUE."

3. PATERNOTTE DE LA VAILLEE FELT THAT ACCEPTABLE FORMULA COULD NOT BE REACHED TO GET DIALOGUE UNDER WAY BEFORE END OF YEAR. HE ALSO NOTED THAT TAKING MAJOR ROLE IN ORGANIZING DIALOGUE WOULD PLACE GREAT STRAIN ON SMALL IRISH FOREIGN MINISTRY DURING IRELAND'S TURN IN EC PRESIDENCY. FIRESTONE

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NNN

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